

whole. Mandy is one whose door is always open and whose creative input is always welcome.

Her legacy on this committee will last long after she leaves Capitol Hill. As a committee conservative, Mandy will further the cause of freedom wherever she goes.

I wish Mandy all the best. I thank her for her exemplary work.

RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF NEW JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we heard last night at the State of the Union Address, President Biden's first 2 years delivered a record-breaking number of new jobs. In total, 12 million new jobs were created for hard-working Americans. I repeat that: 12 million new jobs.

That is as many jobs in 2 years as any President has created in a 4-year term. America also has seen the lowest unemployment rate, at 3.4 percent, since 54 years ago.

The Biden administration fought hard to deliver big results for Medicare and other programs to help seniors and working families. Democrats were able to make changes that will help millions of Americans by lowering prescription drug prices for Medicare patients.

The following improvements have also taken place.

Insulin has been capped at \$35 per month for Medicare patients. Mr. Speaker, that strikes home because we have a lot of diabetes in my own family.

Medicare can now negotiate the price of high-cost drugs, which further drops prices. We also provide additional free vaccines, including for shingles, pneumonia, and hepatitis, under the Medicare program.

On top of all this, we expanded the Affordable Care Act, which will lower premiums for 13 million Americans.

The President's economic agenda is generating investments across the country and revitalizing communities left behind.

We are giving families more breathing room and standing up for workers by banning noncompete agreements; rewarding work, not wealth; and fighting to ensure that everyone can earn a living wage.

For the next 2 years, Democrats will work together to fight for our hard-working families. The President knows that we must finish the job with affordable childcare, home care, sick leave, paid leave, and the child tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, we must put people over politics and solutions over rhetoric.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZACH DIDIER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Zach Didier, a beloved member of our community in Rocklin who tragically passed away from fentanyl shortly after Christmas Day a little over 2 years ago, in 2020.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce the American people to Zach's parents, Laura Didier and Chris Didier, who are with us today in the gallery. I was honored to have Laura and Chris as my guests for last night's State of the Union. They have worked tirelessly to honor Zach's life through raising awareness of the fentanyl crisis and have undoubtedly saved many lives.

This is Zach. He was 17 years old, a senior at Whitney High School. He was an Eagle Scout, soccer player, star of the high school musical, and straight-A student. He had just applied to college, and his parents had to go through the gut-wrenching experience of watching acceptance envelopes arrive from California's leading universities.

I would like to offer a moment of silence to honor the memory and life of Zach Didier.

Mr. Speaker, Zach had no history of drug use. He was the type of young man that parents hope their child would become. I know how proud of him Chris and Laura are.

His story shows that the poison of fentanyl is a risk to everyone. No community is safe from it. No family can be unaware of the danger.

Fentanyl has become the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45, more than car accidents, more than suicides, more than anything.

Over 73,000 Americans died from fentanyl this past year. That amounts to 200 deaths a day, about 1 every 7 minutes.

Though lethality of fentanyl is unlike any other drug, it is about 100 times more potent than morphine. Two milligrams, or the amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is a deadly dose. It is now very commonly added to street pills, such that 98 percent of pills on the street are fake, and by some estimates, 60 percent have the potential to be lethal.

Many of the victims are teenagers, young people, people with no prior drug use. There are many causes connected to this, of course: mental health, teenagers who are just stressed with the stresses of school, and certainly the isolation during the whole COVID era.

They often purchase these fake pills on social media over the internet. The dealers sometimes drive and deliver them straight to the victims' homes.

What can we do? Well, the first and most important thing, perhaps, is to continue to raise awareness. Many Americans aren't aware of the severity of this crisis until it is too late.

Chris and Laura Didier have done 45 school assemblies this year alone, reaching tens of thousands of students and families, and have saved many lives, I know, in the process. Every school across the country needs to

have a strategy for making students and families aware of the dangers.

Secondly, we need to do much more to prevent fentanyl from flowing into this country. We know that the southern border is a primary source. In 2022 alone, the DEA seized 379 million lethal doses of fentanyl. That is enough to kill every single American. Securing the border would diminish the availability of fentanyl and make it more difficult to traffic into the United States.

Finally, we need to hold dealers accountable. We need appropriate criminal laws to punish those who peddle life-ending pills to unsuspecting victims. We need to have consequences that are commensurate with the gravity, the evil, of this offense to deter those who would prey on innocent Americans. This requires State and Federal governments to revisit their drug laws in many cases. It also requires prosecutors to make full use of the tools at their disposal.

I applaud Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire, from my district, who has provided a roadmap by charging fentanyl dealers with murder because that is what it is.

The good news is we are seeing growing momentum for addressing this crisis with the seriousness that it deserves and requires. I am grateful that President Biden devoted a portion of his State of the Union Address to addressing it.

I am grateful that Chris and Laura Didier were here last night to see that because they have played such a large role in working with many other families who have lost loved ones and are raising public consciousness.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time that we need to follow words with action. I look forward to working with the President and everyone in this Congress, on a bipartisan basis, to help our country turn the corner on this crisis.

MEMBERS MOCKING GUN VIOLENCE BY WEARING ASSAULT RIFLE PINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last week was National Gun Violence Survivors Week, when we reflect on the toll that gun violence takes on all of us.

It is disgraceful enough that our Republican colleagues are unwilling to confront gun violence as the leading cause of death among American children, but last week, several Members of this body chose to mock the somber week by wearing assault rifle pins.

Those Members paraded through the Halls of Congress and on this floor, celebrating the weapon of choice for military combatants, mass murderers, and those who have fetishized the Second Amendment.

This shameless gesture was received loud and clear by Americans, including